GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2483
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2001
DESALINATION OF SEA WATER
PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY;RAMPAL SINGH

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to start the desalination of Sea Water Project in order to meet the shortage of potable water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said project is likely to be started/completed;

(d) the amount likely to be spent on the said Project; and

(e) the quantum of sea water likely to be purified on completion of the said project ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SMT. RITA VERMA)

(a): Rural Water Supply is a State subject. Rural drinking water supply schemes are implemented by State Governments from their own resources. The Central Government supplements their efforts by providing financial assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Rural Drinking Water component of Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). Powers to plar sanction and implement projects/ schemes under ARWSP and PMGY-Rural Drinking Water have been delegated to States. As such, Government of India have no proposal to start desalination of Sea Water Project in order to meet the shortage of potable water. However, States facing scarcity of drinking due to deficient rainfall during last year were advised that as a long-term measure, in heat generating industries like petrochemicals, thermal power, etc. located in the coastal areas, surplus heat generated and heat wasted may be utilised by setting up plants for distillation of saline sea water for conversion into potable drinking water. States were also advised that for inland brackish water, small Reverse Osmosis or Electro-Dialysis plants can be set up for providing drinking water where no alternate sources exist.

(b) to (e): Does not arise.